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Weekly Summary

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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

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- 8 Portugal: Military Uprising
- 8 Portuguese Africa: Lisbon's Black Janissaries

Comments and queries on the contents of this publication are welcome. They may be directed to the editor of the Weekly Summary, [REDACTED]

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PORTUGAL: MILITARY UPRISING

By noon on April 25, dissidents calling themselves the "Armed Forces Movement" announced the formation of a provisional government and claimed to have captured the Portuguese Legion headquarters, major radio stations, the Ministry of Army headquarters in Lisbon, and a few military installations outside the capital. They also reported that President Thomaz, Prime Minister Caetano, and some other ministers were surrounded by rebel forces at National Republican Guard headquarters, and that they had been given an ultimatum to surrender.

The rebels reportedly called on Generals Costa Gomes and Spínola to join them, but there is no confirmation that either has responded. Both men were fired last month from their jobs as chief and deputy chief of the armed forces, respectively, in the wake of a furor over a book published by Spínola calling for changes in Portugal's African policy.

Earlier this month in the wake of the military unrest over Portugal's overseas policy, the government arrested nearly 80 leftists and appeared determined to discourage political demonstrations, especially on May Day. Lisbon also cracked down on some clergymen who were advocating a less repressive overseas policy.

So far, there has been no response from Portugal's African territories, although the military there will be watching the situation very closely. Support for Spínola and Costa Gomes is sizable in the territories, particularly among junior officers, but it has been held in check by strong conservative elements in the military, civilian, and security structures. The Rhodesian and South African governments also are watching the situation closely since events in Lisbon will have a strong bearing on their support for Portuguese counter-insurgency efforts in Mozambique, where fighting has been on an upswing since the first of the year.

The outcome of the current situation will depend primarily on the military—whether most choose to remain loyal to the Caetano gov-

ernment or to support the dissenters.

Portuguese Africa: LISBON'S BLACK JANISSARIES

The popular image of the Portuguese African insurgencies as struggles of native blacks against a white minority government has tended to obscure the fact that significant numbers of black Africans are fighting for Lisbon. Some of these Africans are better armed, better trained, and better paid than rank-and-file white Portuguese troops.

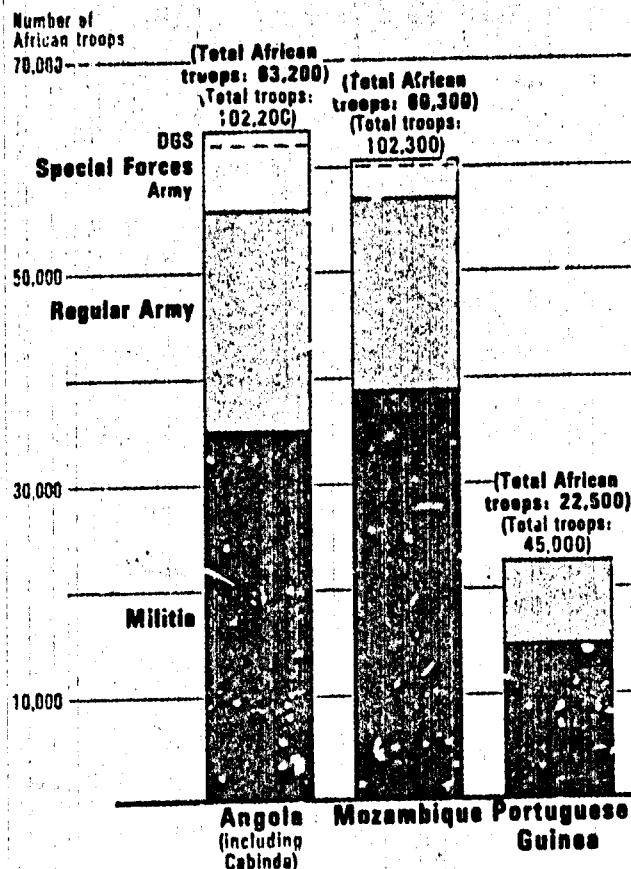
Africans in all three Portuguese territories are subject to conscription into the regular army. They receive the same pay and allowances as soldiers from Portugal, although very few have risen above the enlisted ranks. At present, almost a third of the 150,000 regular Portuguese Army



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African Troops in the Portuguese Territories



forces in Angola, Mozambique, and Portuguese Guinea are Africans.

The regular army units operate from fixed positions in cleared areas and along well-established routes of communication. In addition, the Portuguese have developed two special counter-guerrilla forces that work effectively in the "bush." Both are made up almost exclusively of African volunteers.

First in the field were the "Flechas" (Arrows) of the Directorate General of Security. Created in 1965 as a corps of bodyguards for agents of the security service, the force was later expanded into a paracommando force led by African officers and directed by a regional security agent. The security service began to use the

Flechas in military operations when the army failed to act on intelligence the service provided.

Many Flechas are recruited from tribes hostile to the insurgents, but at least half are rebel defectors whose guerrilla expertise has been ably exploited by the service. They enjoy an elite reputation and are paid almost twice as much as regular soldiers. At present, there are some 1,200 Flechas in Angola and about 300 in Mozambique.

The other bush force is the army's Special Group, which numbers about 9,000 men, most of whom are in Angola. It also includes many former insurgents, although the army has not exploited their potential as well. Because Special Group units are attached to the army, they have less flexibility than the Flechas. Special Group troops are assigned to defend a specific locality, where they also engage in civic action projects.

Additional tens of thousands of Africans serve in militia units in all three territories. These units play a more limited role; probably no more than a third of the militiamen have even rudimentary military training or modern weapons. They are charged with defending their villages, serve as guides and sources of intelligence for the regulars, and perform local administrative duties.

Lisbon believes that the benefits of using African troops outweigh the potential dangers. Through their security role, a large number of Africans have acquired an interest in preserving the status quo in the territories, for they have a position they could not attain through the limited economic and educational openings available to them. Moreover, Lisbon is able to advertise the African troops as evidence of the multi-racialism of Lusitanian society.

Many white settlers in the territories are not enthusiastic, however. They fear that the Africans whom Portugal has armed and trained may eventually turn against them. The settlers' apprehension is aggravated by a shortage of arms for civilian use in the territories, which makes it difficult for whites to defend themselves against terrorist attacks.

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